

Eligibility

- 81-B-02 In order to be eligible for accreditation, the institution or organization must be located in the United States or its Territories. The ACCME limits site survey visits to the United States and U.S. Territories.
- 81-C-05 An organization is not eligible to apply for accreditation if, in the judgment of the ACCME, its program is devoted to advocacy of unscientific modalities of diagnosis or therapy.
- 81-C-06 Where there is a question of eligibility for survey, the application will be referred to the ACCME Executive Committee which will consider it and make a recommendation to the ACCME which will then vote upon the eligibility of the applicant.
- 82-B-04 Definition of an Organization Eligible for Accreditation
- The ACCME, in an attempt to foster continuing medical education of high quality at reasonable cost, available to all physicians in the United States, specifies the following criteria of eligibility for accreditation: Institutions and organizations which are surveyed and accredited directly by the ACCME are generally defined as follows: state medical societies, schools of medicine, and other institutions and organizations providing continuing medical education activities on a regular and recurring basis and serving registrants, more than 30% of whom are from beyond bordering states.
- Institutions and organizations not eligible for accreditation directly by the ACCME should seek accreditation from the state medical society (or state accrediting body in states where the medical society does not accredit alone) in the state in which they have their headquarters or in which they provide CME activities.
- To be eligible for accreditation, a provider must offer a program of continuing professional education for physicians. An organization is not eligible to apply for accreditation if its program is devoted solely to advocacy of a modality of diagnosis or treatment which is not a subject for instruction in most medical schools whose programs of medical education are accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education
- The ACCME reserves the right to make decisions on eligibility for accreditation. (amended 7/98)
- 83-A-04 An organization applying for survey at its initial CME activity should be advised that it is very difficult to demonstrate its ability to comply with the Essential Areas, Elements and Policies until after at least one event has been completed. However, if the organization still wishes to proceed with an on-site survey during their first CME offering, the ACCME will comply. In order to complete the process, the organization must provide documentation of subsequent evaluation and of its use in planning future CME activities, before the ARC will consider the application.

94-C-02 Policy and procedure on dual accreditation:

A single provider of continuing medical education may not maintain accreditation by the ACCME and a state medical society at the same time. (It is recognized that short periods of overlap may occur when a provider transitions from one accreditation system to the other and continues to be listed as “accredited” by both.)

When a state medical society accredited provider alters its function and seeks and achieves accreditation from the ACCME, that provider should promptly notify the respective state medical society, withdraw from its accreditation system, and ask to be deleted from its list of accredited providers of CME. Should an ACCME-accredited provider change its role and become accredited by the state medical society, a similar procedure must be followed.

Annually, the ACCME will notify state medical societies of CME providers in their states which have been awarded accreditation by the ACCME. (amended 7/98)

97-A-20

The ACCME will not deny eligibility for accreditation solely on the basis that an organization produces and/or markets a product (device, biologic or pharmaceutical as regulated by the Food and Drug Administration) or activities about a product (device, biologic or pharmaceutical as regulated by the Food and Drug Administration) as long as the activities they develop and/or present are educational and not promotional.

The ACCME will consider an activity to be educational, rather than promotional, when the activity is deemed to have been, in all respects, created and presented in compliance with the ACCME’s Standards for Commercial Support.

